

Message Text

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42

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-03 FEA-02 DRC-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 /045 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6955

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1733

PLEASE PASS COMMERCE, OFFICE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION,
ATTENTION MR. KERNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, CS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXPORT LICENSE FOR BUNKER C FUEL

REF: STATE 082203

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED A CALL FROM MR. JAIME GUARDIA OF BUQUES CENTROAMERICANAS, IDENTIFIED AS A SHIPPING FIRM. MR. GUARDIA HAS ASKED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN SECURING AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR 80,000 BARRELS OF BUNKER C NUMBER 6 FUEL. ACCORDING TO MR. GUARDIA THE FUEL IS BEING PURCHASED BY THE COSTA RICAN STATE REFINERY, RECOPE, FOR RESALE TO THE STATE POWER AGENCY, ICE. MR. GUARDIA CLAIMS THAT ACTION IS NEEDED BY TODAY ON THE LICENSE IN ORDER TO HOLD TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS.

2. COMMENT: BUQUES CENTROAMERICANAS S.A. IS A RECENTLY ESTABLISHED CORPORATION OF DUBIOUS ANTECEDENCE. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY MR. PAUL COVERSTON (U.S. CITIZEN), PRESENTLY RECOPE MANAGER, THAT THE CONTRACT WITH BUQUES IS GENUINE AND THAT THERE IS NEED FOR THE FUEL. MR. COVERSTON WHO HAS PROVED TO BE A RELIABLE SOURCE IN THE PAST SAID THE PRODUCT WOULD BE
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DELIVERED TO THE WEST COAST OF COSTA RICA WHERE BUNKER C

IS IN SHORT SUPPLY. END USERS WOULD BE, IN ADDITION TO ICE, THE FERTILIZER PLANT FERTICA WHICH HAS A LARGE FACILITY IN PUNTARENAS. COVERSTON SAID BUNKER C WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY IN THE CARIBBEAN AND MOREOVER THAT IN COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION WAS SUCH THAT IT WAS MORE FEASIBLE TO BRING THE PRODUCT FROM THE UNITED STATES THAN TO TRY TO TRANSHIP IT OVERLAND. COVERSTON'S UNSOLICITED OPINION OF BUQUES WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE.

3. SINCE WE FEEL WE HAVE ESTABLISHED NEED AND THE BONA FIDES OF THE OBLIGATIONS WITH RECOPE, WE DO NOT POSE ANY OBJECTION TO ISSUING THIS LICENSE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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